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PATENTAttorney Reference Number 3382-53710  
Application Number 09/626,170

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

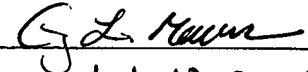
**In re application of:** De Vries  
**Application No.** 09/626,170  
**Filed:** July 27, 2000  
**Confirmation No.** 9560  
**For:** PLACE SPECIFIC BUDDY LIST  
SERVICES  
**Examiner:** Quochien B. Vuong  
**Art Unit:** 2685  
**Attorney Reference No.** 3382-53710

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and the documents referred to as being attached or enclosed herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Attorney  
for Applicant(s)

Date Mailed

  
Jul. 12, 2004

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## DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.131

I, Jean Pierre De Vries, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the inventor of the subject matter described and claimed by the patent application referenced above, i.e., U.S. Patent Application No. 09/626,170 (hereinafter the '170 application). I was employed by Microsoft Corporation (Microsoft), the assignee of the '170 application, while developing the invention described and claimed in the '170 application.

2. I understand that certain claims of the '170 application have been rejected in view of United States Patent No. 6,549, 768 to Fraccaroli [hereinafter, "Fraccaroli"] and United States Patent No. 6,587, 691 to Granstam et al. [hereinafter, "Granstam"]. I understand that Fraccaroli and Granstam have been cited as allegedly anticipating and/or rendering obvious certain claims pending in the '170 application.

3. I understand that Fraccaroli has a filing date of August 24th 1999, and that Granstam has a filing date of February 25, 2000.

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4. I conceived the subject matter claimed in the '170 application in the United States prior to August 24th 1999. Further, I have not abandoned the above-named invention. I have read and understood the claims pending in the '170 application.

5. Accompanying this Declaration as Exhibit A is a true and accurate photocopy of a document entitled "Place Specific Buddy Lists." All dates on this document have been redacted. Additional information not pertinent to the technology described and claimed in the '170 application also has been redacted.


6. The document of Exhibit A was created by me prior to August 24th 1999.

7. The ideas and concepts demonstrated by Exhibit A arose from work conducted for Microsoft. These ideas and concepts are embodied by the claims of the '170 application.

8. All statements made herein and of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further, these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that any such willful statements made may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date:

9 July 2004

  
Jean Pierre De Vries